

# Vishvas Vasuki

**Address** Mountain View, CA, USA  
<https://vvasuki.github.io/>

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## Formal Education

**University of Texas Austin** Computer Science  
MS with GPA 3.7. Dec, 2010

**Vishveshvariah Technological University, India** Computer Science and Engineering  
BE. *First class with distinction.* Jul, 2003

## Publications

Ali Jalali, Pradeep Ravikumar, Vishvas Vasuki, and Sujay Sanghavi. On learning discrete graphical models using group-sparse regularization. In *JMLR Workshop and Conference Proceedings: AISTATS 2011*, volume 15, 2011. pdf, bib.

SmartDetect Project Team. Wireless sensor networks for human intruder detection. *Journal of the Indian Institute of Science*, Vo. 90, No. 3:pp. 347–380., 2010. pdf, bib.

Vishvas Vasuki, Nagarajan Natarajan, Zhengdong Lu, and Inderjit.S Dhillon. Affiliation recommendations using auxiliary friendship networks. In *RecSys '10: Proceedings of the third ACM conference on Recommender systems*, Barcelona, Spain, 2010. pdf, bib.

Vishvas Vasuki, Nagarajan Natarajan, Zhengdong Lu, Berkant Savas, and Inderjit.S Dhillon. Scalable affiliation recommendations using auxiliary friendship networks. *ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology special issue on Social Recommender Systems*, 2011. pdf, bib.

## Research

### Sanskrit and Hindu community

Independent Researcher 2011 to present

Sanskrit language processing. *Highlights (Core)*: Published several indic language stardict dictionaries, a mobile app to conveniently install them. An easy to use audio podcasting service. Libraries for audio and video curation. Indic transliteration modules (scala, python). The Jekyll sanskrit-documentation-theme. *Highlights (Secondary)*: Open source Jyotisha library, sanskrit.parser (scraped data), m17n transliteration library. Consolidated the *open source Sanskrit programming community* with an active mailing list.

### MIT-SVS

Researcher Apr 2017 to Mar 2018

Sai's "Vedavaapi" initiative: "ullekhanam" (text and image annotation), "vyakarana" (sanskrit grammar) projects.

### Honda Research Institute USA via TriCom Quest

Mountain View, CA

Research Intern

Jan 2012 to Jun 2012

*Product prototyped*: Spoken Dialog System for interactive navigation. *Activities*: Scaling-up the parser to work with large database of entities (cut running time from  $O(n)$  to  $O(1)$ ). Tuning belief tracking system. Assisted with demonstrating this complex system on an Android device. Probabilistic graphical models and neural networks were used. Involved working with Java, Scala, C and Python code.

### University of Texas Austin

Department of Linguistics

Volunteer Research Assistant

Jun 2011 to Jan 2012

*Topic*: Bootstrapping a Part of speech tagging using tag dictionaries. *Techniques*: Modeled context using Directed graphs and Hidden Markov Models. Used EM with Label Propagation to exploit untagged data.

### University of Texas Austin

Department of Computer Sciences

Research Assistant

Jul 2009 to Dec 2010

*Problems considered*: Learning discrete graphical models, devising realistic network generation models, building recommender systems which use information from auxiliary social networks, gene-disease link discovery.

*Activities included*: Literature survey, identifying problems of interest, modeling and some theoretical analysis, designing experiments, tinkering and finding solutions, prototyping algorithms, presenting ideas and results, assisting in grant applications. The research involved collaboration and some mentoring.

### University of Massachusetts Amherst

Computer Science Department

Research Assistant

Sep 2007 to Dec 2007

*Topic*: Use of homology information in improving ab-initio Protein Structure Prediction.

*My role involved*: Literature survey, developing a research plan and contributing to the prediction software.

## Indian Institute of Science

Project Assistant

*Topic:* The use of wireless sensor networks in detecting, classifying and tracking various objects.

*My role:* To evaluate sensing, routing and scheduling algorithms by simulation, and by actual deployment.

Electrical Communications Engineering

Nov 2006 to Mar 2007

## Software engineering

### Google Inc.

Software Engineer

*Product:* YouTube Spam and Abuse classifiers, Ad inventory classifiers.

*Role:* I built, evaluated and deployed several machine learning models. Mostly text features, linear models and neural networks (Google Brain). *Auxiliary initiatives:* Pointed out and fixed problems in Indic language products (Eg. OCR, Google indic IME-s).

YouTube

Jun 2012 to Apr 2017

### Microsoft

Software Development Engineer

*Product:* Java terminal services client deployed on **Microsoft Windows Storage Server 2003**. Starting from scratch, we delivered an early version of the product in six months.

*Role:* I developed and owned the input-handling and packet-framing modules.

Windows Group

Feb 2006 to Aug 2006

### Infosys

Software Engineer

*Products:* Ematrix's Product Central, a machine-part management system for Porsche.

*Role:* I implemented fresh features, fixed bugs, did some testing, produced technical documentation, maintained the bug-tracking (bugzilla) portal, made UI mock-ups, participated in design, and reviewed code. *Self-driven initiatives:* Writing software for bug-notification, synchronizing bug databases and ranking employees based on minimal input.

PLM Group

Jul 2003 to Dec 2004

## Technical Skills

- **Recent Experience:** Python, C++, Scala, Java.
- **Past Experience:** Matlab, R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, C, C#, VB, C++, 8086 assembly language, NesC/ TinyOS, JSP, Rational Rose, SQL, E-Matrix's PLM suite, JavaScript, PERL. **Web-server environments:** Apache, Weblogic, Websphere, Tomcat. **Frameworks and standards:** log4j, XML, CSS, JUNIT, ANT.
- **Code samples** See github repos under vvasuki, sanskrit-coders.

## Honors and Scholastic achievements

- **Merit scholarship** from the State Bank of Mysore. *Microelectronics and Computer Development Fellowship* UT 2007 (Declined). *Deans Excellence Award* UT 2007 (Declined).
- **Standardised tests:**
  - GRE 09/2011** Verbal: **170/170**, Quant: **166**. Analytical Writing: **4.5/6** - 99, 94, 72-th %iles.
  - GRE 07/2006** Verbal, Quant: **800/800**. Analytical Writing: **5.5/6**. -99, 94, 96th %iles.
  - Computer Science GATE 2007: 99th percentile [Rank 181]** <sup>1</sup>
- *madhyamA* in Sanskrit and Hindi.

## Teaching

### University of Texas Austin

Teaching Assistant

My duties have included grading, making grading rubrics, proctoring exams, holding office hours and leading

discussion sections. I was TA for the following courses: *Learning Theory*(CS395T), Fall '10. *Numerical Analysis:*

*Linear Algebra*(CS383C), Fall '09. *Contemporary issues in Computer Science* (CS349), Spr '09. *Analysis of Programs*

(CS336), Fall '08. *Foundations of Computer Science* (CS307), Spr '08.

Department of Computer Sciences

Jan 2008 to Dec 2010

## Personal Details

- **Avocation:** Sanskrit, Poetry, shAstra, Nature, Hiking, Vedic conservatism.
- **Human languages:** English, Spoken samsk.rta, kannaDa, hebbAr tamiL, hindI.
- **Citizenship:** India.

<sup>1</sup>This annual national level exam tests computer science knowledge in over 17,000 (in 2007) candidates to help postgraduate admissions.